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Zack Demars Photos, The World

A fan blows putrid-smelling air out the front door of the Coos County Democratic Party headquarters in downtown Coos Bay on Wednesday morning.

Democratic headquarters vandalized

ZACK DEMARS
The World

COOS BAY — The Coos County Democratic Party headquarters was vandalized Tuesday night, police and party officials say.

Party staff was in the downtown building around 9:15 p.m. when an individual taped a sign on the door and poured a putrid-smelling liquid on the ground and vent at the front of the office, according to party chair Mo Aakre. The smell came through a vent into the building and made a staff member sick, she said.

“You stink! And so do your nominees! #MAGA,” the sign read in all caps, referring to President Donald Trump’s campaign slogan, “Make America Great Again.”

A video posted on the party’s Facebook page shows a single individual wearing a face covering posting the sign and taking a bottle out of a jacket pocket.

Coos Bay Police have yet to identify the individual or the substance used, according to Deputy Chief Chris Chapanar. The substance was determined not to be chemical or accelerant and smelled like sour milk, Chapanar said.

The case remains open, and the activity is classified as criminal mischief in the third degree, a class



Dark streaks mark where foul-smelling liquid was poured Tuesday night. The area still smelled the next morning.

C misdemeanor, Chapanar said.

Party leaders thought the office’s downtown location would be a safe option, since the area is well lit and well traveled, though they haven’t experienced this kind of nuisance before, Aakre said. Now, party officials are exploring protocol changes following the incident.

“I want to assure my staff of their safety,” Aakre said. “Our people who come into the office

are positive and hard working.”

The air inside and around the office was still foul-smelling Wednesday morning, and Aakre said staff wouldn’t be allowed to return to the space until after a restoration company comes to clean the remaining substance.

“I’m not going to blame this on the Republicans,” Aakre said. “We all live in this community.”

Instead, Aakre said she’s reached out to local Republican

Party leadership to discuss the incident and the campaign season going forward.

Coos County Republican Party Chair Rod Schilling didn’t respond to a voicemail left by The World Wednesday morning before this story was published.

“We’re hoping to catch this individual and have them have the consequences of their poor choice,” Aakre said of the unknown suspect.

MP dairy fined for violations

Valley Crest Foods Inc. pleads guilty to violating federal Clean Water Act

THE WORLD

EUGENE — A Myrtle Point corporation pleaded guilty Wednesday, Oct. 7, to repeatedly discharging milk and other pollutants into the public water treatment facility which caused waste water with elevated e-coli bacteria to enter the South Fork of the Coquille River resulting in a public health advisory, announced U.S. Attorney Billy J. Williams.

Valley Crest Foods, Inc., a creamery, pleaded guilty Oct. 7 to four counts of violating the federal Clean Water Act.

“The United States Attorney’s Office takes seriously any business, corporation, or individual that bypasses federal environmental laws to maximize profits,” said Williams, U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon in a press release. “We will continue to aggressively prosecute individuals and corporations whose illegal conduct threatens our region’s natural resources and public health.”

“We are all responsible for keeping our communities safe and protecting our natural resources, and you can’t send significant amounts of corrosive wastes down the drain and expect the sewage treatment process to work properly — especially after being told repeatedly that it would not. Today’s guilty plea demonstrates that we will hold violators responsible — even criminally responsible where that is warranted — for breaking our environmental laws” said Jessica Taylor, director of EPA’s Criminal Investigation Division.

According to court documents, in 2017 and 2018, defendant Valley Crest Foods, Inc. was regularly discharging wastewater to the sewer system that caused disruptions at the City of Myrtle Point’s publicly owned treatment works (POTW). These disruptions resulted in the POTW’s inability to effectively process the waste it received from the local community.

Specifically, Valley Crest turns raw milk into finished milk products such as half and half, whole

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Pence, Harris spar over COVID-19 in VP debate

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Trading barbs through plexi-glass shields, Republican Mike Pence and Democrat Kamala Harris turned the only vice presidential debate of 2020 into a dissection of the Trump administration’s handling of the coronavirus pandemic, with Harris labeling it “the greatest failure of any presidential administration.”

Pence, who leads the president’s coronavirus task force, acknowledged that “our nation’s gone through a very challenging time this year,” yet vigorously defended the administration’s overall response to a pandemic that has killed more than 210,000 Americans.

The meeting, which was far more civil than last week’s chaotic faceoff between President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden, unfolded against an outbreak of coronavirus now hitting the highest levels of the U.S. government. Trump spent three days at the hospital before returning to the White House on Monday, and more than a dozen White House and Pentagon officials are also infected, forcing

even more into quarantine.

With less than four weeks before Election Day, the debate was one of the final opportunities for Trump and Pence to reset a contest that could be slipping away. They’re hoping to move the campaign’s focus away from the virus, but the president’s infection — and his downplaying of the consequences — are making that challenging.

Trump and Biden are scheduled to debate again on Oct. 15, though the status of that meeting is unclear. The president has said he wants to attend, but Biden says it shouldn’t move forward if Trump still has coronavirus.

Republicans desperately want to cast the race as a choice between two candidates fighting to move the country in vastly different directions. Biden and Harris, they say, would pursue a far-left agenda bordering on socialism; the Democrats say Trump’s administration will stoke racial and other divides, torpedo health care for people who aren’t wealthy and otherwise undercut national strength.

Harris, 55, made history by becoming the first Black woman

to stand on a vice presidential debate stage. She condemned the police killings of Breonna Taylor in Kentucky and George Floyd in Minnesota and spoke about the protests against racial injustice in policing that followed, which Trump has portrayed as “riots” as he calls for law and order.

“We are never going to condone violence but we must always fight for the values that we hold dear,” Harris said. “I’m a former career prosecutor. I know what I’m talking about. Bad cops are bad for good cops.”

Pence, 61, said his heart breaks for Taylor’s family but he trusts the U.S. justice system. He called it “remarkable” that Harris, as a former attorney general and prosecutor, would question the grand jury’s decision in the case not to charge an officer with killing her.

He also pushed back against the existence of systemic racism in police departments and rejected the idea that law enforcement officers have a bias against minorities.

Trump will skip virtual debate

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump vowed Thursday not to participate in next week’s debate with Democratic nominee Joe Biden after it will take place virtually because of the president’s diagnosis of COVID-19.

“I’m not going to do a virtual debate,” Trump told Fox Business News, moments after the nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates announced the changes.

The shakeup comes a week before Trump and Biden were set to square off for the second presidential debate in Miami. Biden’s campaign insisted its candidate was ready to move forward, but the future of the event is now in serious doubt.

The Commission on Presidential Debates made the decision unilaterally, citing the need “to protect the health

and safety of all involved with the second presidential debate.”

When Republican Mike Pence and Democrat Kamala Harris squared off for their only vice presidential debate in Salt Lake City on Wednesday night, they shared a stage but were separated by plexi-glass to prevent the spread of the virus.

Trump’s campaign said the president would do a rally instead of the debate.

“For the swamp creatures at the Presidential Debate Commission to now rush to Joe Biden’s defense by unilaterally canceling an in-person debate is pathetic,” Bill Stepien, Trump campaign manager, said in a statement. “The safety of all involved can easily be achieved without canceling a chance for voters to see both candidates go head to head.

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Please see **VP**, Page 4

Coos County has 40 active cases

THE WORLD

PORTLAND — COVID-19 has claimed two more lives in Oregon, raising the state’s death toll to 583, the Oregon Health Authority reported Wednesday.

Oregon Health Authority also reported 305 new confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19 on Wednesday, bringing the state total to 35,634.

In Coos County, there have been 192 COVID-19 cases, with 142 confirmed and 50 presumptive. There are currently 40 active

cases with about 200 people being monitored who had close contact with those cases, according to Coos Health & Wellness. Those people are asked to self-isolate for two weeks and check in with CHW daily to monitor symptoms.

There are no current outbreaks in Coos County, according to CHW and the one at Bandon Pacific Seafoods in Charleston last month has been resolved.

The three people hospitalized earlier this week in Coos County are

no longer in the hospital. There has been a total of 12 people hospitalized due to COVID-19 since the pandemic began.

The new cases announced Wednesday by OHA are in the following counties: Baker (3), Benton (4), Clackamas (22), Columbia (7), Coos (6), Crook (1), Deschutes (11), Douglas (3), Jackson (21), Jefferson (1), Josephine (6), Klamath (2), Lake (1), Lane (53), Lincoln (1), Linn (31), Malheur (5), Marion (25), Morrow (1), Multnomah (43), Polk (3), Tillamook (5), Umatilla

(13), Wallowa (2), Wasco (4), Washington (26) and Yamhill (5).

Oregon’s 582nd COVID-19 death is an 86-year-old man in Washington County who tested positive on Sept. 24 and died on Oct. 5 in his residence. He had underlying conditions.

Oregon’s 583rd COVID-19 death is a 69-year-old woman in Deschutes County who tested positive on Aug. 26 and died Oct. 5 at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend. She had underlying conditions.

Astronaut chooses daughter’s wedding over space test flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The commander of Boeing’s first astronaut flight has pulled himself off the crew so he’s on Earth — not at the International Space Station — for his daughter’s wedding next year.

It’s the second crew switch for Boeing’s Starliner capsule, grounded until the end of this year or early next because of software problems encountered during the first test flight last December.

Boeing astronaut Chris Ferguson announced his decision Wednesday. Last year, NASA astronaut Eric Boe stepped aside from the first Starliner crew for medical reasons. Both were replaced by experienced space station astronauts.

In a video posted to his Twitter account, Ferguson said it was a difficult decision, but “next year is very important for my family.” He said he has several commitments “which I simply cannot risk missing.” A Boeing spokeswoman confirmed one is his daughter’s wedding.

“I’m not going anywhere. I’m just not going into space next year,” Ferguson said.

He stressed that he remains committed to the Starliner program and will continue to work for Boeing.

The former NASA astronaut has flown in space three times, commanding the last shuttle flight in 2011. He has been replaced on the Starliner crew by NASA astronaut Butch Wilmore, who had been training as a backup for the test flight. Wilmore joins NASA astronauts Nicole Mann and Mike Fincke, who replaced Boe.

In December or early January, Boeing plans to repeat a Starliner test flight without a crew, in hopes of reaching the space station this time. If that goes well, Wilmore, Fincke and Mann will fly to the space station aboard a Starliner as early as June 2021, and remain in orbit anywhere between two weeks and six months.

SpaceX, meanwhile, plans to launch its second astronaut flight at the end of this month. Two NASA test pilots returned to Earth in August to close out SpaceX’s first crew mission. NASA has turned over the job of ferrying astronauts, to and from the space station, to private companies.

Curry County has new case of COVID-19

THE WORLD

CURRY COUNTY — Curry County Public was notified by Curry Health Network Wednesday morning of a one new case of COVID-19. This current case has been verified and confirmed by the health officer through lab results, according to a press release from Public

Health Administrator Sherri Ward.

Public health has made contact with the individual, who is a Curry County resident that is home self-isolating, monitoring symptoms. Investigation and contact tracing is being conducted by Curry County Public Health. Public health will reach out to anyone suspected of

exposure to COVID-19.

As of Oct. 7, the total verified number of positive cases in Curry County is currently 33 with one of those considered presumptive, 28 recovered cases, 5 active cases, zero hospitalizations and zero deaths.

“Please remember, it is important that we all follow the OHA and CDC

guidelines and Governor’s directives about social distancing, wearing facial coverings in public buildings and protecting yourselves by staying home to slow the spread and save lives,” stated Ward.

Public Health will continue to keep the public informed with all the information they can in order to keep its citizens safe.

OHA explains outbreak reporting metrics

OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY

OREGON — We know you have questions about OHA’s workplace outbreak reporting, and we have answers.

An outbreak is defined as two or more cases linked to the same worksite who have disease onset in the same 14-day period. OHA’s COVID-19 Weekly Report names businesses that have 30 or more workers total and five or more people who have COVID-19.

These people may be employees, or close contacts and family members of employees. Close contact means being within six feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes cumulatively.

When a workplace outbreak reaches 20 or more cases, OHA reports it in the next daily press release, posted on OHA’s COVID-19 News page, as well as in this newsletter.

To learn more, read OHA’s frequently asked questions about workplace outbreak reporting.

Outbreaks at four workplaces reach 20 or more cases

On Wednesday, Oct. 7, OHA reported outbreaks at four workplaces. At each

facility, the case count includes all persons linked to the outbreak, which may include household members and other close contacts to an employee.

State and county public health officials are working with the businesses and facilities to address the outbreak and protect the health of workers.

New Season Foods Company outbreak at 20 cases

An outbreak of 20 cases of COVID-19 has been reported at New Season Foods Company in Washington County. The case count includes all persons linked to the outbreak, which may include household members and other close contacts to an employee.

The outbreak investigation started on Sept. 23, but the initial case count was below the threshold for public disclosure. State and county public health officials are working with the business to address the outbreak and protect the health of workers.

COVID-19 outbreak at Oregon State Hospital at 20 cases

An outbreak of 20 cases of COVID-19 has been reported at Oregon State Hospital in Marion County. The case count includes all

persons linked to the outbreak, which may include household members and other close contacts to an employee.

The outbreak investigation started on July 13, but the initial case count was below the threshold for public disclosure. State and county public health officials are working with Oregon State Hospital to address the outbreak and protect the health of workers.

COVID-19 workplace outbreak at 21 cases

An outbreak of 21 cases of COVID-19 has been reported at McDonald’s (245 Barnett Rd, Medford) in Jackson County. The case count includes all persons linked to the outbreak, which may include household members and other close contacts to an employee.

The outbreak investigation started on Sept. 6, but the initial case count was below the threshold for public disclosure. State and county public health officials are working with the business to address the outbreak and protect the health of workers.

COVID-19 outbreak at correctional facility at 41 cases

An outbreak of 41 cases of COVID-19 has been

reported at Oregon State Correctional Institution in Marion County. The case count includes all persons linked to the outbreak, which may include household members and other close contacts to an employee.

The outbreak investigation started on Sept. 28, but the initial case count was below the threshold for public disclosure. State and county public health officials are working with the correctional facility to address the outbreak and protect the health of workers.

OHA Weekly Report shows slight increase in new daily cases

OHA’s Weekly Report, released Wednesday, shows that during the week of Monday, Sept. 28 through Sunday, Oct. 4, 2,055 new cases of COVID-19 infection were reported — up 3% from last week’s tally of 1,999.

The number of newly tested people decreased by 7% to 22,548, while the percentage of positive tests increased slightly to 6.3%. Twenty-five Oregon residents were reported to have died in association with COVID-19 — up from 18 the previous week.

The number hospitalized was 119, down from 143 the previous week.

Violation

From Page 1

milk (4%), and different percentages thereafter 2%, 1%, and skim (0%). The investigation determined the equipment at the facility would occasionally “back up” or “clog.” When such clogs occurred, employees would drain the milk products from the equipment and then clean the system. During cleaning, the clogs would break free. Clogs based on the investigation, ranged up to several hundred gallons or more at a time. When the clogs were dislodged, a “slug” or “slug load” of milk would flow directly into the sewer system and the sewage treatment plant where it overwhelmed the treatment process.

The defendant was regularly discharging slugs of milk that interfered with the normal disinfectant process, causing the POTW to discharge waste

with elevated bacteria (E. coli) levels to the South Fork of the Coquille River, in violation of the City’s Clean Water Act discharge permit. As a result, on several of those occasions, the levels of bacteria were significant enough that it led to public service announcements warning the community to avoid using the river.

On Oct. 7, Valley Crest appeared before Magistrate Judge Mustafa Kasubhai, and entered a plea of guilty to the criminal information charging four counts of violating title 33 of the Clean Water Act. Valley Crest was ordered to pay a fine of \$20,000 per count.

The investigation was conducted by EPA special agent Eric Martenson. The case was prosecuted by Pam Paaso, assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon and Karla Gebel Perrin, special assistant United States Attorney for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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Former Oregon Congressman Weaver dies at 93

EUGENE (AP) — James Weaver, a former Democratic congressman for Oregon’s 4th District who was a tireless advocate for environmental preservation, has died. He was 93.

Weaver died early Tuesday morning, The Register-Guard reported Wednesday. No cause of death was given. But his wife told the newspaper he had been in a care facility for some time.

Weaver held the seat from 1975 to 1987, during which he pushed for major environmental legislation and protections for wildlife in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Those close to him said even after retiring, he never

put his political career away.

“That definitely was his passion,” Katie Mason, his wife of 22 years, told the newspaper. “He was very outspoken in certain areas and I think that probably drew people to him.”

James Howard Weaver was born Aug. 8, 1927, in Brookings, South Dakota, where he spent his early years. His family moved to Des Moines, Iowa, where he graduated high school. It wasn’t until later that his family moved west to Eugene; he eventually attended and graduated from the University of Oregon.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy at 17 and later became a builder and developer. Around that time

he turned his focus to legislation and was a Democratic delegate in 1960.

He was elected to Congress in 1974 as part of “the Watergate Class,” in which 91 new members of the House were elected in that year’s November election following President Richard Nixon’s resignation. Seventy-five of those new members, including Weaver, were Democrats. Weaver unseated Republican Rep. John Dellenback, who had held the position for eight years.

In 1987, Weaver was succeeded by current Rep. Peter DeFazio, who also worked on Weaver’s staff.

“I’m saddened by the pass-

ing of my predecessor, former boss, and mentor Jim Weaver,” DeFazio said in a statement Tuesday afternoon. “Jim was a tireless advocate for the environment, a passionate wilderness conservationist, a voice for peace in the midst of the Vietnam War, and a principled lawmaker. He made a tremendous impact in both the halls of Congress and at home in southwest Oregon, and his guidance and friendship will be missed by all who knew him.”

Weaver was an opponent of the Vietnam War, herbicide and pesticide spraying, and the Washington Public Power Supply System, a grouping of five pro-

posed nuclear power plants in the Northwest.

He also sponsored several major pieces of environmental legislation that became law, including the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984, which designated a significant list of areas across the state as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

He also sponsored legislation that extended federal recognition to three tribes in Oregon and restored all rights and privileges diminished by previous legislation.

Weaver is survived by Mason and three daughters. His ex-wife, Sally Weaver, also survives him.

American poet wins Nobel literature prize

STOCKHOLM (AP) — American poet Louise Glück won the Nobel Prize in Literature on Thursday for her “candid and uncompromising” work, which looks unflinchingly and with biting humor at loss and trauma, especially in family life.

She joins a handful of American poets who have received the prize, which has been dominated by novelists since the first award in 1901. The last American to win was Bob Dylan in 2016.

She is also one of the few women honored — the 16th female Nobel Literature laureate.

The Nobel Committee praised Glück “for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal,” in a citation read by Mats Malm, the permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy, at the award announcement in Stockholm.

Glück, who shuns publicity, had no immediate comment.

In a 2012 interview with the Academy of Achievement, she noted that “worldly honor makes existence in the world easier”

but said he true goal as an artist was “not capable of being had in my lifetime.”

“I want to live after I die, in that ancient way,” she said. “And there’s no way of knowing whether that will happen, and there will be no knowing, no matter how many blue ribbons have been plastered to my corpse.”

New York-born Glück, 77, who is a faculty member at Yale University, made her debut in 1968 with “Firstborn,” and “was soon acclaimed as one of the most prominent poets in American contemporary literature,” the committee said.

Anders Olsson, chairman of the Nobel literature committee, said Glück’s 12 collections of poetry were “characterized by striving for clarity.”

Olsson said her verses, which often draw on classical influences and examine family life, were marked by an “austere but also playful intelligence and a refined sense of composition.”

Raised in a family with Hungarian Jewish origins, Glück has spoken of how a teenage struggle with anorexia, and the therapy she

received for it, influenced her incisive writing.

“Louise Glück’s voice is unmistakable. It is candid and uncompromising, and it signals that this poet wants to be understood. But it is also voice full of humor and biting wit,” Olsson said. “This is a great resource when Glück treats one of our great topics, radical change, where the leap forward is made from a deep sense of loss.”

Glück’s poetry collections include “Descending Figure,” “Ararat” and “The Triumph of Achilles,” which was published in 1985 and won the National Book Critics Circle Award.

In contains one of her most anthologized poems, the spare and despairing “Mock Orange,” in which a flowering shrub becomes the focus of a wider wail of anguish about sex and life: “How can I rest? / How can I be content / when there is still / that odor in the world?”

The committee described her 2006 collection “Averno” as “masterly” and “a visionary interpretation of the myth of Persephone’s descent

into hell in the captivity of Hades, the god of death.”

Glück is the recipient of many awards, including Guggenheim and National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, the American Academy of Arts and Letters Gold Medal in Poetry and the National Humanities Medal.

She won the Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for “The Wild Iris” and the National Book Award for “Faithful and Virtuous Night” in 2014. She was U.S. poet laureate from 2003 to 2004.

Nobel laureates receive a 10 million kronor (more than \$1.1 million) prize and are usually feted at a banquet in December, but the event was canceled this year because of the coronavirus pandemic. This year’s winners will be invited to attend in 2021.

The literature prize comes after several years of controversy and scandal for the organization that awards the accolade.

In 2018, the award was postponed after sex abuse allegations rocked the Swedish Academy, which names the Nobel literature committee, and sparked a mass exodus of members.

After the academy revamped itself in a bid to regain the trust of the Nobel Foundation, two laureates were named last year, with the 2018 prize going to Poland’s Olga Tokarczuk and the 2019 award to Austria’s Peter Handke.

But Handke’s prize caused a storm of protest: A strong supporter of the Serbs during the 1990s Balkan wars, he has been called an apologist for Serbian war crimes. Several countries including Albania, Bosnia and Turkey boycotted the Nobel awards ceremony in protest, and a member of the committee that nominates candidates for the literature prize resigned.

On Monday, the Nobel Committee awarded the prize for physiology and medicine for discovering the liver-ravaging hepatitis C virus. Tuesday’s prize for physics honored breakthroughs in understanding the mysteries of black holes, and the chemistry prize on Wednesday went to scientists behind a powerful gene-editing tool.

Still to come are prizes for outstanding work in the fields of peace and economics.

CB man dies in accident

BANDON — A Coos Bay man has died and another was seriously injured when the vehicle they were in went off the road just north of Bandon on Wednesday afternoon.

According to a press release from the Oregon State Police, on Wednesday, Oct. 7, at approximately 3:12 p.m., Oregon State Police troopers and emergency personnel responded to a single vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 101 near milepost 258, which is near Fahy Road.

Preliminary investigation revealed a Toyota SR-5 pick-up, operated by Andrew Martin, 35, from Coos Bay, was southbound when it went off the roadway and struck a tree.

Martin was transported to Bay Area Hospital with serious injuries.

The passenger, Douglas Hansen, 55, of Coos Bay, sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced deceased.

OSP was assisted by the Bandon Police Department, Coos County Sheriff’s Office, Bandon Fire and Rescue, the Oregon Department of Transportation and Bay Cities Ambulance.

Louisiana braces for Friday impact from Hurricane Delta

MORGAN CITY, La. (AP) — Louisiana residents still recovering from the devastation of a powerful hurricane less than two months ago braced for another hit as Hurricane Delta steamed north through the Gulf on Thursday after swiping Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula.

Forecasters warned that the storm could blow ashore Friday with winds of up to 100 mph (160 kph) and a storm surge of up to 11 feet (3.4 meters). They placed most of Louisiana within Delta’s path, including the southwest area of the state around Lake Charles, where Category 4 Hurricane Laura ripped houses from their foundations, peeled off roofs and tore trailers in half on Aug. 27.

Nearly six weeks later, 5,600 people remain in New Orleans hotels because their homes are too damaged to occupy. Trees, roofs and other debris left in Laura’s wake still sit by roadsides waiting for pickup even as forecasters warned that Delta could be a larger than average storm.

The large majority of structures damaged by Laura haven’t been permanently repaired, Gov. John Bel Edwards noted on Wednesday.

“All that debris could become missiles in really strong wind,” said Edwards, who also worried about the “sheer anxiety” the storm could cause already traumatized residents.

“We don’t want a hurricane to hit anywhere, but we know that the area that is least prepared and ready for a storm happens to be southwest Louisiana,” he said.

Edwards said President Donald Trump approved his request to declare a federal emergency, which frees up federal resources. This is the sixth time in the Atlantic hurricane season that people in Louisiana have been forced to flee the state’s barrier islands and sail boats to safe harbor while emergency officials ramp up command centers and consider ordering evacuations.

Hurricane Delta is the 25th named storm of the Atlantic’s unprecedented hurricane season. Delta hit Mexico as a Category 2 hurricane just south of the resort city of Cancun early Wednesday with high winds and heavy rain, cutting power to more than 260,000 customers and forcing tourists into storm shelters. No deaths or injuries were reported.

The storm weakened to a Category 1 storm Wednesday afternoon, but had already restrengthened to a Category 2 by Thursday morning, with sustained winds near 100 mph. The storm was expected to become a major hurricane by Thursday night, with some weakening forecast once Delta approaches the northern Gulf Coast on Friday.

Many residents said they have had enough.

“This has to be the worst year that I have experienced,” said Andrius Vitto, 42, a food truck owner from Grammercy who helped feed hungry evacuees after Laura.

After learning this week that his native New Iberia, just to the east of Laura’s worst devastation, was in Hurricane Delta’s sights, “the hair rolled up on my arms,” he said. “To see

all this happening in one year — you know with the wildfires, with the hurricanes, the rain, all the other stuff in the news — COVID — It’s mind-boggling.”

In Sulphur, across the Calcasieu River from Lake Charles, Ben Reynolds was deciding Wednesday whether to leave or stay. He had to use a generator for power for a week after Hurricane Laura.

“It’s depressing,” Reynolds said. “It’s scary as hell.”

While New Orleans has been mostly spared by the weather and found itself outside Delta’s cone Wednesday, constant vigilance and months as a COVID-19 hot spot have strained a vulnerable city still scarred by memories of 2005’s Hurricane Katrina. Delta’s shifting forecast track likely meant no need for a major evacuation, but the city’s emergency officials were on alert.

“We’ve had five near misses. We need to watch this one very, very closely,” New Orleans Emergency Director Collin Arnold said.

Along with getting hit by Hurricane Laura and escaping Hurricane Sally, Louisiana saw heavy flooding June 7 from Tropical Storm Cristobal. Tropical Storm Beta prompted tropical storm warnings in mid-September as it slowly crawled up the northeast Texas coast.

Tropical Storm Marco looked like it might deliver the first half of a hurricane double-blow with Laura, but nearly dissipated before hitting the state near the mouth of the Mississippi River on Aug. 24.

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren

Man’s internet addiction makes woman a social media widow

DEAR ABBY: I realize that social media is a big part of today’s world, and I have no problem with someone using it to stay in contact with family and friends. But at what point is it deemed an addiction?

My significant other spends hours every day scrolling through his Facebook and Twitter pages. I have tried discussing it with him, but it becomes an argument. Now I just sit in the same room with him, silent and waiting until it’s my turn for his attention. How can I get him to realize how isolated from him it makes me feel and that my presence doesn’t seem to be needed? Should I just accept that he’s an addict and move on? -- OFFLINE IN FLORIDA

DEAR OFFLINE: Something becomes an addiction when it causes a disruption in one’s life. Your significant other isn’t the first person to have been seduced by the internet. He may argue with you because he doesn’t realize the amount of time he spends glued to his screen.

Try this: Quietly clock the time he’s on FB and Twitter for one week. Afterward, ask him if he realizes how much time he is spending there. He may be shocked when you read him the number of hours. That’s the time to express how isolated and unneeded this has made you feel. He may be willing to install an app that signals when the time limit he has allotted himself is up.

Discuss making a “date” for the two of you to get out of the house as a couple on a regular basis -- without devices -- to take a walk, go to the park or have socially distanced coffee somewhere, which may interrupt his habit and enable you to enjoy some time together when you are both fully present. But if he isn’t interested, you may have to decide if you want to continue being his lady-in-waiting.

DEAR ABBY: Is it rude or disrespectful for someone to change their first name? I’m in my early 30s and have wanted to change mine my whole life. I changed the spelling of my name when I was 12, and my parents legally changed it for me when I was a teenager. But I

still don’t like the name, and I cringe whenever I hear it.

Because it’s a common name for someone my age, I’m sure most people won’t understand if I change it. While I respect the effort my parents put into selecting a name for me, I don’t want to be stuck with this one for the rest of my life. I don’t want to cause hurt feelings. However, I’m ultimately the one who has to live with it.

Should I do what feels right for me, or must I accept the negative feelings and the disconnect I have toward the name to spare my family’s feelings? -- DISCONNECTED OUT WEST

DEAR DISCONNECTED: Many people change their name(s) for various reasons. If you feel the need to do it in order to be a more authentic version of yourself, go for it. Assuming you have told your parents how you feel about your first name, I doubt they’ll be any more upset about it than they were when they helped you change its spelling as a teenager.

A word of caution, however. The process may take more time than you would like because the pandemic has slowed the court system considerably. Also, once you change your name, you will need to change it on all official identifying documents, such as your driver’s license, insurance documents, passport, etc., which can be time-consuming.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Another 840,000 seek unemployment benefits

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits fell slightly last week to a still-high 840,000, evidence that job cuts remain elevated seven months into the pandemic recession.

The latest sign of a flagging recovery comes two days after President Donald Trump cut off talks over a new rescue aid package that economists say is urgently needed for millions of unemployed Americans and struggling businesses. A failure to enact another round of government aid would crimp household income and spending, and some economists say it would raise the risk of a double-dip recession.

Thursday's report from the Labor Department said the number of people who are continuing to receive unemployment benefits dropped 1 million to 11 million. The decline suggests that many of the unemployed are being recalled to their old jobs. But it

also reflects the fact that some have used up the 26 weeks of their regular state benefits and have transitioned to extended benefit programs that last an additional three months.

In addition, the government said 464,000 people applied for jobless aid last week under a separate program that has made the self-employed, contractors and gig workers eligible for unemployment benefits for the first time. That was about 45,000 lower than in the previous week. These figures aren't adjusted for seasonal trends, so the government reports them separately from the traditional jobless claims.

About 11.4 million people are receiving aid under that program, known as Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. All told, 25.5 million people were receiving some form of unemployment aid in the week that ended Sept. 19, the latest period for which data is available. Yet many econo-

mists say they are dubious about the PUA data, which has likely been inflated by miscounts and outright fraud.

The weekly count of Americans applying for traditional unemployment benefits has also become less reliable as some states have increased their efforts to root out fraudulent claims and process earlier applications that have piled up.

California, for example, which accounts for more than one-quarter of the nation's unemployment applications, last week simply provided the same figure it had supplied two weeks ago. That was because the state has stopped accepting jobless claims online for two weeks so it can implement anti-fraud technology and catch up with a backlog of 600,000 applications.

Across the country, hiring has slowed just as federal rescue aid has run out, hampering an economy still climbing out of the deep

hole created by the pandemic. Employers added just 661,000 jobs in September, less than half of August's gain and the third straight monthly decline.

Just over half the 22 million jobs lost to the coronavirus have been recovered, leaving the economy with 10.7 million fewer jobs than in February — a figure that exceeds all the job losses from the 2008-2009 Great Recession.

The \$2 trillion financial aid package that Congress enacted in the spring provided enough support to more than fully offset the household income that was lost from the flood of layoffs in the April-June quarter. Household incomes actually rose in that quarter because of the \$600-a-week federal jobless benefit and \$1,200 checks that the government sent to most adults.

That extra money enabled spending at retailers to regain pre-pandemic levels. An analysis by Opportunity Insights, a

research group, has found that spending has rebounded faster in lower-income neighborhoods than in wealthier ones because of the benefit of stimulus payments.

Yet economists have warned that without further aid, families across the country will struggle in coming months to pay bills, make rent, afford food and avoid eviction. According to a Census Bureau survey released Wednesday, one-third of adults are struggling to pay for their usual expenses, including rent, food, car payments and utilities.

Oxford Economics projects that without further federal aid, the economy will eke out just a 1% annual growth rate in the current quarter, down sharply from its previous forecast of 4%.

On Tuesday, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell made clear his belief that unless the government supplied additional support, the recovery was at risk of derailing.

Appeals court rules Trump must provide tax info to prosecutors in New York criminal investigation

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump's accountant must turn over his tax records to a New York state prosecutor, an appeals court ruled Wednesday in a decision that likely sets up a second trip to the U.S. Supreme Court over the issue.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan said in a written decision that a stay of a lower-court decision will remain in effect so Trump's lawyers can appeal the ruling to the high court.

In August, a district court judge had rejected their renewed efforts to invalidate a subpoena that the office of Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. issued to Trump's accounting firm last year.

Part of Vance's probe pertains to an investigation related to payoffs to two women — porn actress Stormy Daniels and model Karen McDougal — to keep them quiet during the 2016 presidential campaign about alleged extramarital affairs with Trump. Trump has denied the affairs.

Vance is seeking more than eight years of the Republican president's personal and corporate tax records, but has disclosed little about what prompted him to request the records. In one recent court filing, Vance's lawyers have said he was justified in demanding them because of public reports of "extensive and

protracted criminal conduct at the Trump Organization."

A Justice Department spokesperson said the department was reviewing the ruling.

The Supreme Court in July ruled 7-2 against the president, rejecting Trump's arguments that he can't even be investigated, let alone charged with any crime, while he is in office. But the court said Trump can challenge the subpoena on other grounds, like anyone else who receives a subpoena.

The likelihood that the taxes would be released was unlikely to be resolved before the November election, especially since the high court is down to eight justices after the death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. And any release would not result in immediate public disclosures, since grand jury proceedings are secret.

Through his lawyers, Trump argued that the subpoena was issued in bad faith, might have been politically motivated and amounted to harassment of him, especially since the wording copied the language in congressional subpoenas. The lawyers also maintained that seeking tax records dating back to 2011 was a "fishing expedition" and the overbroad request should be rejected.

In its decision, the 2nd Circuit disagreed.

"We hold that none of

the President's allegations, taken together or separately, are sufficient to raise a plausible inference that the subpoena was issued 'out of malice or an intent to harass,'" the appeals court said.

In filings with the 2nd Circuit, Vance's lawyers cited public reports including news accounts and Congressional testimony by former Trump personal lawyer Michael Cohen saying it was common for the Trump Organization to submit falsified financial records when the company applied for loans.

Vance's lawyers wrote that if Trump and his entities made misstatements about business properties, wherever located, to New York-based business partners, insurers, potential lenders, or tax authorities, those misstatements could establish crimes including falsifying business records, insurance and tax fraud and scheming to defraud.

Last month, The New York Times reported that it had obtained over two decades of tax return data for Trump and hundreds of his companies. It said he paid just \$750 in federal income tax the year he entered the White House and no income tax at all in 11 of 18 years it reviewed.

At the time, Trump dismissed the report as "fake news" and maintained he has paid taxes, but he provided no specifics.

Appellate court upholds ruling allowing census to continue

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A panel of three appellate judges on Wednesday upheld a lower court order allowing the 2020 head count of every U.S. resident to continue through October. But the panel struck down a provision that had suspended a year-end deadline for submitting figures used to decide how many congressional seats each state gets.

The ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals panel in San Francisco upheld part of U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh's preliminary injunction last month, and rejected part of it.

Koh's preliminary injunction suspended a Sept. 30 deadline for finishing the 2020 census and a Dec. 31 deadline for submitting numbers used to determine how many congressional seats each state gets — a process known as apportionment. Because of those actions, the deadlines reverted back to a previous Census Bureau plan that had field operations ending Oct. 31 and the reporting of apportionment figures at the end of April.

By issuing the injunction, Koh sided with a coalition of civil rights groups and local governments which had sued the Trump administration, arguing minorities and others in hard-to-count communities would be missed if the counting ended in September

instead of October. But Trump administration attorneys had argued the Census Bureau was obligated to meet the congressionally mandated requirement to turn in apportionment numbers by Dec. 31.

Koh also struck down an Oct. 5 end date that the Commerce Department, which oversees the Census Bureau, had pushed after the injunction, saying it violated her order.

Hours after Wednesday's ruling, the Trump administration asked the U.S. Supreme Court to put an immediate hold on the injunction while it appeals.

Acting Solicitor General Jeffrey Wall wrote in an application to the Supreme Court that the appellate court's ruling will still force the Census Bureau to violate the Dec. 31 deadline. He added the decision also conflicts with the district judge's rationale for issuing the injunction, calling it "an unprecedented intrusion" into the Trump administration's ability to conduct the census.

"Because courts are not equipped to manage census operations, it is not surprising that the district court erred in its assessment of how accurate the census will be," Wall said.

Supporters of the longer head count schedule praised the decision.

"The courts keep

speaking even if the Trump administration is not listening," said Julie Menin, who heads New York City's census outreach efforts. "The Trump administration has lost time and time again in their attempts to interfere with the 2020 Census, and we welcome the Ninth Circuit's decision, which preserves a fair and accurate census timeline."

Responding to the pandemic, the Census Bureau in April proposed extending the deadline for finishing the count from the end of July to the end of October and pushing the apportionment deadline from Dec. 31 to next April. The proposal to extend the apportionment deadline passed the Democratic-controlled House, but the Republican-controlled Senate didn't take up the request. Then, during the summer, bureau officials shortened the count schedule by a month so that it would finish at the end of September.

The Republicans' inaction coincided with a memorandum President Donald Trump issued, which was later ruled unlawful by a panel of three district judges in New York, directing the Census Bureau to exclude from the apportionment count people in the country illegally. The Trump administration is appealing that case to the Supreme Court.

VP

From Page 1

"I want everyone to know who puts on the uniform of law enforcement every day, President Trump and I stand with you," Pence said. "We don't have to choose between supporting law enforcement, proving public safety and supporting our African American neighbors."

The candidates also clashed on taxes -- or specifically, Trump's refusal to release his tax returns four years after repeatedly promising to do so. The New York Times reported last month that the president pays very little personal income tax but has hundreds of millions of dollars in debt.

"It'd be really good to know who the president owes money to," Harris said.

"The one thing we know about Joe, he puts it all out there. He is honest, he is forthright," she added. "Donald Trump, on the other hand, has been about covering up everything."

Pence defended Trump as a job creator who has paid more than his fair share of taxes and shifted

toward Biden: "On Day One, Joe Biden's going to raise your taxes."

Both candidates side-stepped difficult questions at times.

Pence refused to say whether climate change was an existential threat or whether Trump would accept the election results should he lose, while Harris declined to say whether Biden would push to expand the number of justices on the Supreme Court.

But so long as the coronavirus is ravaging the White House and killing several hundred Americans each day, the campaign will almost certainly be a referendum on the Trump administration's inability to control the pandemic, which Republicans have sought to downplay or ignore altogether for several months.

Pence's effort to focus on other topics was undercut by the mere fact that the candidates and moderator were separated by plexiglass shields, seated more than 12 feet apart and facing a crowd of masked audience members who faced expulsion if they removed their face coverings. The candidates on

stage revealed test results earlier in the day proving they were not infected.

While the audience was forced to wear face masks throughout, second lady Karen Pence removed her mask as she joined her husband on stage at the end of the debate.

Though the night was about Pence and Harris, the men at the top of the ticket also made their presence known.

Trump released a video just three hours before the debate calling his diagnosis "a blessing in disguise" because it shed light on an experimental antibody combination that he credited for his improved condition — though neither he nor his doctors have a way of knowing whether the drug had that effect.

He tweeted several times during the debate, offering this assessment at one point: "Mike Pence is doing GREAT! She is a gaffe machine."

Biden too kept a stream of tweets going; he posted his plans for confronting the virus, shared clips from the debate exchanges and praised Harris, who he said "is showing the American people why I chose her as my running mate."

Trump

From Page 1

We'll pass on this sad excuse to bail out Joe Biden and do a rally instead."

Trump was hospitalized for three days but is now back at the White House recovering. He has vowed to return to the campaign trail soon. Still, the commission's move is yet another indication that the presidential election is being dominated by the virus — defying the president's monthslong attempts to underplay it and declare that the country was ready to move on.

Trump is thought to be trailing in key battleground states. Even before his COVID-19 diagnosis, he was widely criticized for his chaotic performance during last week's first presidential debate in Cleveland. Next week's debate, and a third one set for the following week in Nashville, would have been a chance for him to attempt to reset the election and potentially change its trajectory.

Biden aides argued that Trump's pulling out could be a boon to their candi-

date. Given reactions to the chaotic first debate, they believe most voters, especially undecided voters, will see the president as avoiding a second debate out of his own interests, not because he dislikes the format.

"Vice President Biden looks forward to speaking directly to the American people," deputy Biden campaign manager Kate Bedingfield said in a statement.

Biden said earlier in the week that he was "looking forward to being able to debate him" but added "we're going to have to follow very strict guidelines." He said he and Trump "shouldn't have a debate" as long as the president remains COVID positive.

The Commission on Presidential Debates announced early Thursday the candidates would "participate from separate remote locations" while the participants and moderator remain in Miami, it said. Moments later, Trump vowed to skip the event entirely.

Trump was diagnosed with the coronavirus a week ago, but in a Tuesday tweet said he looked

forward to debating Biden a second time, "It will be great!" he tweeted.

He fell ill with the virus last Thursday, just 48 hours after debating Biden in person for the first time in Cleveland. While the two candidates remained a dozen feet apart during the debate, Trump's infection sparked health concerns for Biden and sent him to undergo multiple COVID-19 tests before returning to the campaign trail.

Trump was still contagious with the virus when he was discharged from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on Monday but his doctors have not provided any detailed update on his status. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, those with mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19 can be contagious for as many as — and should isolate for at least — 10 days.

It's not the first debate in which the candidates are not in the same room. In 1960, the third presidential debate between Richard Nixon and John F. Kennedy was broadcast with the two candidates on opposite coasts.

